A DESCRIPTION OF NOUN SUFFIXES IN COLLOQUIAL MEXICAN SPANISH

BY

SPENCER LEROY MURPHY, JR.

B.A., University of Mississippi, 1927
M.A., University of Mississippi, 1933

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPANISH
IN THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, 1950

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A DESCRIPTION OF NOUN SUFFIXES IN COLLOQUIAL MEXICAN SPANISH

The abstract gives a shortened version of the introduction and presents the system of forms with one example of each type.

0. Introduction.

0.1. Method. The present study is a descriptive investigation of noun suffixes in colloquial Mexican Spanish. Historical developments have not been considered. Since this is a first attempt and since in the relatively undeveloped field of descriptive word formation there often appear several possibilities of interpretation, it is evident that many of the phenomena discussed might be described differently.

0.11. Bibliographical note. The methods of analysis and description are those developed by present day linguists, particularly, Bloomfield, Nida, Bloch, Trager, Pike, and Hall. In addition studies on word formation by Meyer-Lübke, Allen, Malkiel, and Henry and Renée Kahane have been found useful. The study of José Alemany Bolufer, Tratado de la formación de palabras en la lengua castellana, Madrid, 1920, contains a full treatment of noun suffixes in Castilian Spanish and, though it mixes diachronic and synchronic interpretations, is of great value for reference.

0.12. Sources of examples. The material of the present study has been taken from the spoken parts of five plays and one novel by contemporary Mexican authors, all representative of colloquial language. The speech of the characters is that of the lower, middle, and upper social classes of Mexico. No interpretation of either social or regional differences was attempted. The following works were used:

Mariano Azuela, "Los de abajo," Teatro, Mexico, 1938.

Francisco Monterde García Icazbalceta, En el remolino, Mexico, 1924.

Victor Manuel Diez Barroso, Una farsa, Mexico, 1928.

Julio Jiménez Rueda, Cándido Cordero, empleado Público, Mexico, 1929.

Ermilo Abreu Gómez, "Un loro y tres golondrinas," El hijo pródigo, 9,28.34-55 (July 1945), Mexico, 1945.

J. Guadalupe de Anda, Los bragados, novela, Mexico, 1942.

0.13. Sources of related words. Most of the "related words" (0.26) are found in dictionaries of Standard Spanish or of Americanisms. Some, however, such as *nublina* (Los de abajo, 99), related word for *nublinazo* (Los de abajo, 100), occur in the text of the source material. A few were supplied by Mexican informants.

0.14. Phonemic transcription. Where transcription is used it is phonemic. There are five vowel phonemes: *i, e, a, o, u,* and eighteen consonant phonemes: the labials *p, b, f, m;* the dentals *t, d;* the alveolars *s, l, n, r, rr;* the palatals *ch, y, ñ;* and the velars *k, g, x, w.*

0.15. Meanings. The meaning given for an example is the one used in the context of the source material. The meaning given for a related word is the one that shows its semantic connection with the example.

0.2. Terminology.

0.21. Example. An "example" (Ex) is a noun with a suffix that occurs in the source material. Only those suffixes have been included of which more than one example was found.

0.22. Noun marker. The "noun marker" (NM) is a final phoneme of a noun appearing in the form *-a, -e, -o,* or zero. With the exception of the cases discussed in 7., it is not a morpheme; nor is it a derivational or an inflectional ending. If a suffix follows a base, the noun

marker follows the suffix. A hyphen after a suffix indicates that it is followed by *-a, -e,* or *-o.*

0.23. Infix. In this study the part of a suffix that comes before the element of a suffix common to all its variants is called an "infix" (In).

0.24. Base. The "base" (B) is that part of the example which precedes the suffix and gives the lexical meaning. The base is isolated by comparing an example with a related word; the elements in common form the base. It may be a free form, if it occurs with a noun marker (*ix-*), or a bound form, if it occurs only with suffixation or in compounds (*ekw-*). It may consist of more than one morpheme (*ixit-*).

0.25. Base final. The "base final" (BF) is the final phoneme or phoneme cluster of the base.

0.26. Related word. A "related word" (RW) is one in which the base of an example occurs. However, a word containing the base plus the suffix of the example has not been considered as a related word. Two words may be historically related, but unless they have an actual semantic connection, the bases of the two words are considered in this descriptive study to be different morphemes. The semantic connection between the related words and examples has been established by Mexican informants. This was obviously an arbitrary procedure, but it seemed necessary for a synchronic presentation of word formation. When there were several possibilities in selecting a related word, the one closest in form to the example was chosen provided no other word had a closer semantic connection. For the example *risa,* the related word *río* was selected in preference to *reír,* and for *sabiduría, sabido* in preference to *saber.* It should be clearly understood that "related word" does not mean a word from which the example is to be derived, but is merely a means for isolating the base.

0.27. Noun suffix. A "noun suffix" (S) is a bound form between the base and the noun marker which to some degree modifies the meaning of the base; it is here considered a derivational, not an inflectional element.

0.3. Arrangement. Suffixes are arranged according to form.

0.31. General plan. The two main groupings are suffixes with the zero noun marker and suffixes with the noun markers *-a, -e,* and *-o.* Suffixes with the zero noun marker (1. - 7.) are, for the most part, of the form -VC and are arranged alphabetically according to the consonant; the one axception, *-yón,* follows. Suffixes with markers *-a, -e,* and *-o,* (8. - 26.) are arranged according to their composition in the following order: -NM, -V-, -C-, -VC-, -VCC-, -VCVCC-.

0.32. Division of sections. Each section has two main divisions: "Forms" and "Remarks". Under "Forms", examples are arranged according to the form of the suffix and changes of the base. The base is given in phonemic transcription in the first column, the related word and its meaning in the second, and the example with its meaning in the third. Under "Remarks", observations are made on related words, noun markers, forms, and meaning.

0.4. General observations. The statements and rules apply only to the examples as used in the context of the source material.

0.41. Changes in the base. In most instances of suffixation the base remains unchanged. The bases of the examples end in all consonant phonemes (0.14) and in the vowel phonemes *e, i,* and, rarely, *o.* Some bases have automatic change of a base vowel dependent on stress; unstressed *e,* for example, becomes *ye* in *sosegar* : *sosiego* and unstressed *o* becomes *we* in *recordar* : *recuerdo.* In such instances the unstressed form of the

base is listed. Other changes are non-automatic: certain bases show loss of a final phoneme or cluster of phonemes; others have a variable base final; and a few change internally. In several instances there are combinations of these changes.

0.411. Loss of final phonemes of the base occurs as follows:

a. Final consonant phoneme drops (*b, d, t, r, y*).

b. Final cluster of nasal plus dental drops (*nd, nt*).

c. Vowel phoneme plus a consonant phoneme drop (*ed*).

0.412. Variations in base finals occur as follows: *d* : *t*; *n* : *s*; *nd* : *s*; *t* : *s*; *s* : *k*; *k* : *s*; *g* : *x*; *x* : *g*.

0.413. Internal changes occur as follows:

a. Loss of *y*.

b. Vowel change *e* : *i*; *i* : *e*.

c. Stammentfaltung.

0.414. Combinations of changes in 0.411, 0.412, and 0.413:

a. Loss of base final and internal change.

b. Variable base final plus internal change.

0.42. Types of infixes. Many suffixes contain infixes. Infixes may be composed of a single consonant phoneme, a vowel phoneme plus a consonant phoneme, or a vowel phoneme plus two consonant phonemes. Often the infix carries the accent. With the suffixes *-éx-*, *-ít-*, and *-íy-*, the presence or absence of an infix and also its form are determined by the form of the base.

0.43. Forms of the noun marker. The form of the noun marker after a suffix is determined by the suffix unless the noun marker is also a suffix (7.). When the noun marker which follows a suffix is a suffix itself, its form is determined by the base. In a few instances no pattern for the selection of the noun marker is apparent: *carro* : *carreta*; *peso* : *peseta*; *bolsa* : *bolsillo*; *puerta* : *portillo*; *rueda* : *rodillo*.

0.44. Form classes of related words. For some suffixes there seems to be a pattern of form class of related words; but often the related words of a suffix occur in two or more form classes.

0.45. Meaning of suffixes. Since no satisfactory system of classifying meaning has been developed, the lists of the meaning groups of suffixes investigated are of necessity arbitrary.

0.46. Relative frequency of suffixes. Since all nouns in the material were investigated and since the lists are intended to be complete, without regard, however, to the number of occurrences of an example, a comparison of the number of examples of each suffix should give some idea of the relative frequency of suffixes in colloquial Mexican Spanish. The total number of examples is 1,030. The number of examples of each suffix is as follows:

-NM	323	*-í-*	30	-V*n*-	9
-yón	107	*-íy-*	28	-V*x*-	8
-V*t*-	79	-V*m(y)ént*-	26	*-ísm-*	7
-V*d*-	74	-V*s*-	21	*-ík-*	5
-y-	63	-V*nt*-	18	*-áns-*	5
-V*r*-	60	*-íst-*	12	-V*ch*-	4
-V*d*	48	*-ál*	11	-V*l*-	4
-V*n*	35	*-s-*	11	*-és*	2
-V*r*	30	*-t-*	10		

0.47. General pattern of noun suffixation. A noun suffix is a bound form between the base and the noun marker which to some degree modifies the meaning of the base (0.27). It is derivational, not inflectional. It may have vowel variations. It may contain an infix (0.23). Its presence can be demonstrated by isolating a base common to a related word (0.24, 0.26). It may be restricted in its use to a few bases or capable of being added to many bases. There may or may not exist a definite relationship between the suffix and the form

class of the related words (0.44). It may be composed of a single phoneme or a combination of phonemes (0.31). It may be accented or unaccented. Its meaning may be restricted to an easily definable pattern or extended over such a wide range that it is difficult to define (0.45).

1. Suffix -V*d*.

1.1. Suffix V is *a*.

1.11. B plus S.

B	RW	Ex
amist-	amistoso	amist*ad*

1.12. B plus infix -*d*- plus S.

bon-	bueno	bon*dad*

1.13. B plus infix -V*d*- plus S.

aktib-	activo	activ*idad*

1.2. Suffix V is *u*.

birt-	virtuoso	virt*ud*

2. Suffix -*ál*.

2.1. B plus S.

2.11. B unchanged.

industry-	industria	industri*al*

2.12. *en* : *in*.

krimen-	crimen	crimin*al*

2.2. B plus infix -*w*- plus S.

intelekt-	intelecto	intelect*ual*

3. Suffix -V*n*.

3.1. Suffix V is *a*.

3.11. B plus S.

gwardy-	guardia	guardi*án*

3.12. B plus infix -*as*- plus S.

olg-	holgar	holg*azán*

3.2. Suffix V is *i*.

3.21. B plus S.

botik-	botica	botiqu*ín*

3.22. B plus infix *-ar-* plus S.

bayl-	bailar	bailar*ín*

3.3. Suffix V is *o*.

3.31. B plus S.

rekul-	recular	recul*ón*

3.32. B plus infix *-as-* plus S.

pik-	picar	pic*azón*

4. Suffix -V*r*.

4.1. Suffix V is *a*.

palom-	paloma	palom*ar*

4.2. Suffix V is *o*.

4.21. B plus S.

am-	amar	am*or*

4.22. B plus infix *-d-* plus S.

tray-	traición	trai*dor*

4.23. B plus infix *-t-* plus S.

inspek-	inspección	inspei*tor*

4.24. B plus infix -V*d-* plus S.

mostr-	mostrar	mostr*ador*

5. Suffix *-és*.

5.1. B plus S.

sensiy-	sencillo	sencill*ez*

6. Suffix *-yón*.

6.1. B plus S.

rebel-	rebelar	rebel*ión*

6.2. B plus infix *-s-* plus S.

6.21. B unchanged.

konsep-	concepto	concep*ción*

6.22. Variable BF *s* : *k*.

produs-	producir	produc*ción*

6.23. BF *d* drops.

konsed-	conceder	conce*sión*

6.24. BF *t* drops.

inbent-	inventar	inven*ción*

6.25. BF *nt* drops.

sent-	sentar	se*sión*

6.26. BF *b* drops.

mob-	mover	emo*ción*

6.27. BF *m* drops. *i* : *e*.

imprim-	imprimir	impre*sión*

6.3. B plus infix -V*s*- plus S.

6.31. Infix V is *a*.

kontest-	contestar	contest*ación*

6.32. Infix V is *i*.

perd-	perder	perd*ición*

6.33. Infix V is *u*. Bilabial BF drops.

absolb-	absolver	absol*ución*

7. Suffix -*noun marker*.

7.1. Noun marker is in contrast with another noun marker.

7.11. Contrast is -*a* : -*o*.

ix-	hijo	hij*a*

7.12. Contrast is -*a* : -*e*.

farsant-	farsante	farsant*a*

7.13. Contrast is -*a* : -*zero*.

senyor-	señor	señor*a*

7.2. Contrasting noun marker is in contrast with a verb marker.

7.21. Examples ending in *-a*.

busk-	buscar	busc*a*

7.22. Examples ending in *-e*.

atak-	atacar	ataqu*e*

7.23. Examples ending in *-o*.

apoy-	apoyar	apoy*o*

8. Suffix *-í-*.

8.1. B plus S.

8.11. B unchanged.

alkald-	alcalde	alcald*ía*

8.12. Variable BF *g* : *x*.

arkeolog-	arqueólogo	arqueolog*ía*

8.13. Variable BF *t* : *s*.

poet-	poeta	pues*ía*

8.2. B plus infix -V*r*- plus S.

8.21. Infix V is *a*.

penitensy-	penitencia	penitenci*aría*

8.22. Infixx V is *e*.

byex-	viejo	viej*erío*

8.23. Infix V is *u*.

sabid-	sabido	sabid*uría*

9. Suffix *-s-*.

9.1. B plus S.

9.11. B unchanged.

ri-	río	ri*sa*

9.12. BF dental drops.

permit-	permitir	permi*so*

9.13. BF nasal plus dental drops.

prend-	prender	pre*so*

10. Suffix *-t-*.

10.1. B plus S.

10.11. B unchanged.

bis-	visión	vis*ta*

10.12. BF *b* drops.

bolb-	volver	vuel*ta*

10.13. Variable BF *n* : *s*.

pon-	poner	pues*to*

10.14. Variable BF *s* : *k*.

produs-	producir	produc*to*

10.15. Variable BF *nd* :*s*.

respond-	responder	respues*ta*

11. Suffix *-y-*.

11.1. B plus S.

audas-	audaz	audac*ia*

11.2. B plus infix *-Vr-* plus S.

11.21. Infix V is *a*.

botik-	botica	botic*ario*

11.22. Infix V is *e*. BF *r* drops.

ministr-	ministro	minist*erio*

11.23. Infix V is *o*.

preparat-	preparativo	preparat*oria*

11.3. B plus infix *-orr-* plus S.

biy-	villa	vill*orrio*

11.4. B plus infix *-s-* plus S. BF *t* drops.

elegant-	elegante	elegan*cia*

11.5. B plus infix *-is-* plus S.

11.51. B unchanged.

xust-	justo	just*icia*

11.52. BF *d* drops.

perxud-	perjudicar	perju*icio*

11.53. BF *sg* drops.

prexusg-	prejuzgar	preju*icio*

11.6. B plus infix -V*ns*- plus S.

11.61. Infix V is *a*.

import-	importar	import*ancia*

11.62. Infix V is *e*.

benebol-	benévolo	benevol*encia*

12. Suffix -V*ch*-.

12.1. Suffix V is *a*.

pik-	pico	pic*acho*

12.2. Suffix V is *i*.

met-	meter	met*iche*

13. Suffix -V*d*-.

13.1. Noun markers are potentially contrasting -*a* : -*o*.

13.11. Suffix V is *a*.

emple-	emplear	emple*ado*

13.12. Suffix V is *i*.

ker-	querer	quer*ida*

13.2. Noun marker is -*a* or -*o*.

13.21. Suffix V is *a*.

karret-	carreta	carret*ada*

13.22. Suffix V is *i*.

lat-	latir	lat*ido*

14. Suffix -V*x*-.

14.1. Suffix V is *a*.

espant-	espantar	espant*ajo*

14.2. Suffix V is *e*.

14.21. B plus S.

par-	par	par*eja*

14.22. B plus infix *-s-* plus S.

miyon-	millón	millon*cejo*

15. Suffix *-ik-*.

15.1. B plus S.

akadem-	academia	académ*ico*

16. Suffix -V*l*-.

16.1. Suffix V is *o*.

bander-	bandera	bander*ola*

16.2. Suffix V is *e*.

16.21. B plus S.

pastor-	pastor	pastor*ela*

16.22. B plus infix *-es-*. BF *y* drops.

besty-	bestia	best*ezuela*

17. Suffix -V*n*-.

17.1. B plus S.

17.11. Suffix V is *a*.

probinsy-	provincia	provinci*ano*

17.12. Suffix V is *e*.

des-	diez	dec*ena*

17.13. Suffix V is *i*.

eskupit-	escupitajo	escupit*ina*

18. Suffix -V*r*-.

18.1. Suffix V is *e*.

18.11. B plus S.

xikot-	jicote	jicot*era*

18.12. B plus infix V plus dental plus S.

tumb-	tumbar	tumb*adero*

18.13. B plus infix *-ol-* plus S.

bent-	viento	vent*olera*

18.14. B plus infix *-and-* plus S.

kur-	currar	cur*andero*

18.2. Suffix V is *i*.

ment-	mentir	ment*ira*

18.3. Suffix V is *u*.

18.31. B plus S.

dyabl-	diablo	diabl*ura*

18.32. B plus infix *-at-* plus S.

kry-	criar	cri*atura*

18.33. B plus infix *-id-* plus S.

anyad-	añadir	añad*idura*

19. Suffix -V*s*-.

19.1. B plus S.

19.11. Suffix V is *a*.

tambor-	tambor	tambor*azo*

19.12. Suffix V is *e*.

fin-	fino	fin*eza*

20. Suffix -V*t*-.

20.1. Suffix V is *a*.

asesin-	asesinar	asesin*ato*

20.2. Suffix V is *e*.

karr-	carro	carr*eta*

20.3. Suffix V is *i*.

20.31. B plus S.

xikar-	jícara	jicar*ita*

20.32. B plus infix *-s-* plus S.

peron-	perón	peron*cito*

20.33. B plus infix *-es-* plus S.

xef-	jefe	jef*ecito*

20.4. Suffix V is *o*.

ox-	ojo	oj*ote*

21. Suffix *-íy-*.

21.1. B plus S.

21.11. B unchanged.

pryet-	prieta	prie*tilla*

21.12. B plus infix *-s-* plus S.

eskritor-	escritor	escritor*cillo*

21.13. B plus infix *-es-* plus S.

pobr-	pobre	pobr*ecilla*

22. Suffix *-áns-*.

22.1. B plus S.

beng-	vengar	veng*anza*

23. Suffix -V*nt-*.

23.1. Suffix V is *a*.

ayud-	ayudar	ayud*ante*

23.2. Suffix V is *e*.

23.21. B plus S.

presid-	presidir	presid*ente*

23.22. B plus infix *-w-* plus S.

delink-	delinquir	delinc*uente*

23.23. B plus infix *-y-* plus S.

eskrib-	escribir	escrib*iente*

24. Suffix *-ísm-*.

24.1. B plus S.

24.11. B unchanged.

kasik-	cacique	caciqu*ismo*

24.12. Variable BF *k* : *s*.

romantik-	romántico	romantic*ismo*

25. Suffix *-íst-*.

25.1. B plus S.

biy-	Villa	Vill*ista*

26. Suffix -V*m*(*y*)*ént-*.

26.1. Examples in -V*mént-*.

26.11. V is *a*.

xur-	jurar	jur*amento*

26.12. V is *i*.

bast-	abastecer	bast*imento*

26.2. Examples in -V*myént-*.

26.21. V is *a*.

kas-	casar	cas*amiento*

26.22. V is *i*.

sent-	sentir	sent*imiento*

VITA

Spencer Leroy Murphy, Jr., was born November 8, 1907, in West Point, Mississippi, and was graduated from Grenada High School in 1923. He attended the University of Mississippi from 1923 to 1928, and received the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in 1927 and Master of Arts in 1933. From September, 1926, to August, 1928, he was Assistant in Latin there. From 1930 till entrance into the Army in 1942, he was Professor of Latin and Spanish at Sunflower Junior College, Moorhead, Miss., and High School Principal for the last four years of that period. During the summer of 1933 he attended the Centro de estudios históricos in Madrid, Spain, and received the Diploma de suficiencia. He was president of the Mississippi Classical Association for the year 1939-1940 and Executive Secretary the two following years. His military service included five months at the University of Illinois as a 9-L student of Spanish and thirteen months at Palo, Leyte, Philippine Islands. After discharge from the Army in December 1945, he was Acting Associate Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Mississippi. He re-entered the Graduate College of the University of Illinois in June, 1946, and was Assistant in Spanish from September of that year to February, 1950.